

JOHN EDWARD PORTER
10TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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APPROPRIATIONS

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FOREIGN OPERATIONS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 10, 1983

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Mr. John V. Byrne
Director,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Byrne:

I am writing in response to the article that appeared in the Washington Post on March 8 and the followup article on March 9 regarding the sale of the U.S. Weather Service to private industry.

I was rather surprised to hear of this news in the morning paper. I didn't recall this subject coming up during the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies appropriations subcommittee hearing held on March 3.

I am very concerned that NOAA came before our Subcommittee to explain its proposals for the upcoming year and did not mention a plan of this magnitude. I understand that this plan is only in the consideration stage and that it would not directly affect the 1984 fiscal year proposal. However, a change this significant, even if only in the discussion stages, is one that does affect planning decisions made this year.

I am not arguing for or against the idea at this time. My point here is that the members of the Subcommittee, and I might add especially the members from this administration's own party, should be informed of the proposals under consideration by the departments prior to their appearance in the newspaper.

In that regard, I would appreciate an evaluation from NOAA on this proposal, the various scenarios under consideration, and the merits of each known to date.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

John, Edward Porter
Member of Congress

JEP/avl

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NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 8-373

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 10, 1983

Honorable Malcolm Baldrige
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have recently learned of the Administration's proposal to sell the Government's civil remote sensing satellite systems known as LANDSAT AND METSAT. This proposal is of considerable concern to me for many reasons. It is my understanding that the Department of Commerce is providing the lead in promoting the proposal.

I would appreciate your providing the Subcommittee information on guarantees which would be included in any contract to sell these systems which would ensure an undiminished national security capacity, along with underlying documentation. It would be helpful if you would include a list of government agencies contacted for views concerning the potential impact of this sale on national security or international relations, construing both terms broadly.

I would also appreciate your providing the Subcommittee material demonstrating a comparison of costs to the Government of operating the two systems itself as opposed to selling them. It would be helpful as well to receive your estimation of potential revenues to be generated under the sale proposal, as well as the revenue that will be lost if the Government does not own the satellites. It would be desirable for this financial data to be presented both as aggregate amounts and by fiscal year through at least FY 1995.

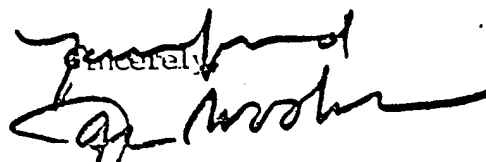
In addition, please provide the Subcommittee any market studies which might have been prepared to indicate the potential for expanded use of data from these systems along with your views on the feasibility of such expansion with continued Government ownership of the systems. It would facilitate my review to receive a copy of the request for information on this subject which was issued for comment and of replies to that request.

It is my understanding that many of the arguments regarding this proposal have been stated in a report prepared by a group led by General Peck and Ms. Kathleen Charles. I would appreciate receiving a copy of that report along with any further documentation in support of the proposal.

Finally, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the request for proposal as soon as it has been prepared.

Because of the critical nature of this issue, I would appreciate receiving each requested item of information as soon as practicable.

Meanwhile, with every good wish to you, I am

Sincerely,

JACK BROOKS
Chairman

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MAR 21 1983
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 Secretary
 Department of Commerce
 Washington, D.C. 20230

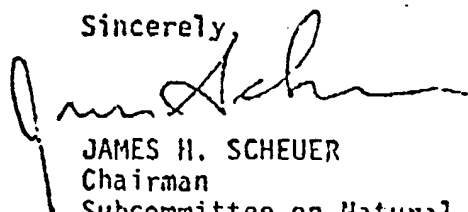
Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Subcommittee is currently preparing for hearings to be held during this session of Congress on the commercialization of satellites operated by the Department of Commerce. In order to assist the Subcommittee in its oversight of these activities, I request that my staff be permitted to review any material maintained in the files of Deputy Secretary Fiske, Associate Deputy Secretary Bayer, and NOAA Administrator Byrne which might bear on the issue of commercialization of land remote sensing satellites or meteorological satellites. This request includes any, and all governmental files, working papers, reports, and documents, in addition to any correspondence between the Federal Government and other public and private entities on the commercialization issue. It would be helpful if you designated a Commerce official to serve as a liaison officer for my staff.

Your prompt attention to this matter is most appreciated. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me or have your staff contact Dr. Robert Palmer of the Subcommittee staff at 225-1064.

With every warm best wish,

Sincerely,



JAMES H. SCHEUER
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Natural Resources,
 Agriculture Research and Environment

JHS/Pgb

CC:JLB

Jeanne Moore ✓

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Hon. Malcolm Baldrige
 Secretary
 Department of Commerce
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to invite you, or the person you designate to speak for the Department, to testify at a joint hearing before the Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment and the Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications on the commercialization of land remote-sensing satellites and meteorological satellites currently operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 13 in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Specifically, we request that you address:

1. the March 8, 1983 decision by the President to commercialize satellite systems;
2. factors which led the President to reach this decision;
3. the Department of Commerce's plans for implementing this decision, including a discussion of the criteria to be used in interacting with the private sector on the commercialization issue;
4. a summary of the deliberations of the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade during 1982 on the commercialization issue; and
5. the history and progress of the studies required in Title II of P.L. 97-324.

The Committee requests that you make available 100 copies of your written statement for use of the Subcommittees at the time of your appearance. Thirty additional copies must be filed by noon on Monday, April 11, with the Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications in Room 2324, Rayburn House Office Building.

AC:JTB


Jeanne Moore ✓
 Ted

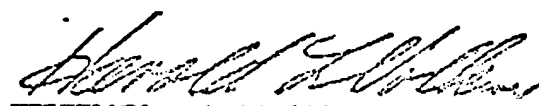
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Hon. Malcolm Baldrige
March 23, 1983
Page 2

If you have any questions about the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact Dr. Robert Palmer or Dr. Radford Byerly of the Committee staff.

Sincerely,


JAMES H. SCHEUER, Chairman
Subcommittee on Natural
Resources, Agriculture
Research & Environment


HAROLD L. VOLKMER, Chairman
Subcommittee on Space
Science & Applications

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